

SPEECH

George Earl of Cromarty Lord Secretary,
to the Parliament of Scotland.

On Tuesday July 11. 1704.

My Lord Chancellor,

ALBEIT this Seat wherein it has pleased Her Majesty to place me, does allow, or rather oblige me to say something on this occasion, yet my Lord high Commissioner and Lord Chancellor have said so fully and so well, as I may justly fear what I can say, will prove a diminutive Adjunction; But I shall speak little, and (if I can remember) I shall not repeat. My Lord, should all Her Servants be silent, the Actings, the Sayings, the whole Tract of Her Majesties Government, and the happy Effects thereof do speak loudly, that if ever Prince or Sovereign have devoted themselves to GOD and their Countrey, without Flattery or Hyperbole, we may truly say, that our most Gracious Queen hath; All may hear, and those who have the Honour to attend Her Majesty, must see, that Her Time, her Care, her Pleasure, her Leisure, her Treasure, yea Her very Health and Life, are sacrificed every day, and almost every time of the day, to a continual exercise of Devotion to GOD, or Administration of Government to Her people; and we may bless GOD, that by his Blessing on Her Endeavours, all and every one of her Subjects do participate of the Fruits of the Royal Sacrifices; Nay, and all the best part of Europe beside that is her Majesties Confederats, and Her and their Enemies do find with grief what we feel with Satisfaction: And tho her Majesty has many Dominions under her Royal Care, and more Confederats; yet She omits not any of our particular Concerns, and We partake in our full Capacity of these happy Effects. We are with many others engaged in a great, but (to full Conviction) necessary War, the Effects whereof are dreadful and hurtful, not only in Expense and Souldiers (which all must afford) but the seeing of people slaughtered like Beasts in our Streets and Houses, to see our Towns in Fire, our Women ravished, our Sacred things prophaned, and many other dismal Effects of War and Rapine, which, almost, all others feel and see; We (thanks to GOD, and

and under him to his Vicegerent Our Queen) do only hear of these things; My Lord Chancellor, this we ought, and I doubt not we do remember and consider. My Lord, This is not offered as an Elogie or Panegerick on her Majesty; She is far above what I can say, but it is an Antecedent to the following Subsumption.

And as this of Her Care of Us, and Zeal for Us, is evident, So it is no less true, that the Queen sits higher than we do, or ought to do on this Throne, as She does also on the Throne of Her other Dominions. And farther, we know, that She is one of the Heads and highly situate, in all the great Confederacy; whereof Her Majesty is, if not the Chief, yet a Principal, and from this both Reason and Discretion oblige us to conclude that She must see very much farther, and more clearly into the Actions, Designs & Practices of Her and our Enemies, and in the Concerns, and in what directs and moves our Allies than is possible for us to do; who both stand lower, and are bounded in our Energies, within narrower Spheres: Therefore, as in all Matters, so especially in points of Fact, we are bound to rely on her Information and her Judgment more than on our own, since what we can but conjecture, is obvious to her certain Knowledge; and if we should fall (as I confidently hope we will not) into the Indiscretion, to oppose our Conjectures to her Knowledge, that could not miss of dire Effects, and readily most mischievous to our selves.

Her Majesties Royal Letter, My Lord Commissioner his Grace, and my Lord Chancellor have plainly laid before us Matters of great Importance; Her Majesty is very express in what She proposes, her Reason and Antecedent is as plain and express as the Conclusion; I hope the two Motives I gave for believing, and consequently for obeying her Majesty are also plain and concluding.

My Lord Chancellor, the Honour of being her Majesties Secretary, obliges me to obviate and remove an Aspersions on the Queens Majesties Candor & Honour (if any such Insinuation be made) which is, that some would persuade others to believe that the Queen has a secret will in the Affair now before us, contrary to her express Will, revealed and declared by Her in her Royal Letter. My Lord, I am persuaded She does hate that Position in Theology; And I am certain She does so in her Politicks; and the Reason of my certainty in this, is, That Her Majesty did command me, and I think her other Servants, expressly to assure this House, that nothing in her Service could please her better than if they should believe and obey Her in what She proposes in her Letters; and nothing can displease Her more than to do otherways.

My Lord, Both old Custom and good Manners oblige us to begin with her Majesties Letter, and in its method, if my Zeal and Duty on this Subject have drawn me in to speak more than I intended, or perhaps needed, I beg the House's pardon; But since my hand is in, and that I neither use nor love to speak oft, I shall only add my earnest and humble wish for these two things, *1^{mo}*. That the Orders of the House may be strictly observed, for by that much time will be saved, and many Inconveniencies prevented; and the not doing of this will disgrace this great Court. The second is, that we may redargue one another with Kindness and Civility, let our force fall on the Subject which

which we oppugn; or the Measure which we reject, and by no means on one anothers Persons: Would to GOD we were always unanimous, but that seldom, if ever, was, in so numerous a Court, or Council; But when we differ, will we argue the better by our being angry? No,

Impedit ira animum.

Will we convert others, so well, by making them angry; as by a meek calmness in arguing? does spite add Force to Reason? Or does it produce that Consent which we endeavour to obtain? So, for our own sakes, and for the honour of our Reasonings, let us urge and reply with Calmness. I have oft regrated, to see good Reasoning lost, or at least ineffectual in great measure by the Heats in arguing, and I will say, it were a pity, for the Members of great Courts else where, may, in the Opinion of many, speak better Language than these of this do; yet they do not speak better Sense: And besides these Motives to calm Reasoning, this ought to determine us all against it, to wit, That neither our Heat, nor our self-pleasing Arguments, are, what will determine any Debate. The Law of Order, the Constitutions, Statutes, and Necessity, gives the Faculty of concluding to the whole of this House; And all we can say must be submitted to what this whole House will approve, or to what the major part will agree in: And therefore, much Reasoning and all Heats, will, on many accounts, be profitably forborn. I conclude with this Assertion, which I think evident without Discourse, that, as the Union of *Britain* is apparently its greatest politick Good; So, as certainly, and by the infallible Rule of Contraries, a Division of *Britain* is its greatest Evil. And then, it is a necessary Corollary, who ever is not for the Union of *Britain* may be concluded an Enemy to it.

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Laurens in answer.

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I bid the Members to calm Reasoning, this ought to be done by all against
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And all we can say must be submitted to what this whole House will approve,
or to what the major part will agree in: And therefore, much Reasoning
and all Heats, will, on many accounts, be precisely forbidden. I conclude
with this Assertion, which I think evident without Discount, that, as the Li-
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by the inflexible Rule of Contraries, a Division of Britain is its greatest Evil.
And therefore, it is necessary, especially, who ever is not for the Union of Britain,
may be concluded an Enemy to it.

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